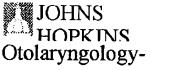
## EXHIBIT 1



## Head and Neck Surgery

Respond to:

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The Editor
Nature Genetics
345 Park Avenue, 10th Floor
New York, New York 10010- 1707

Dear Editor:

Please consider our manuscript entitled, "High frequency of BRAF mutation in papillary thyroid carcinoma," For publication in Nature Genetics as Brief Communications.

On the heels of the identification of the BRAF as an important oncogenic protein in melanoma, we have discovered a high frequency of BRAF mutations in Papillary thyroid cancer. BRAF mutations now represent the most common genetic alteration in these common thyroid neoplasms. Previously, an inverse correlation between ras mutations and BRAF mutations were described in a limited number of tumors. We also found an inverse correlation between RASSF1A methylation and BRAF mutations in these cancers. Our results thus confirm the importance of map kinase signaling pathway activation in thyroid cancers. We believe that this information will be of great interest to a wide scientific audience.

Thank you as always for reviewing our work.

Sincerely,

David Sidransky, M.D.
Director, Head and Neck Cancer Research
Professor, Otolaryngology - Head and Neck
Surgery, Oncology, Pathology, Urology,
& Cellular and Molecular Medicine